

## TORRANCE LIABILITY FOR SCHOOL BONDS LIMITED TO SUMS ACTUALLY SPENT HERE

Not only will the people of Torrance escape liability under the \$75,000,000 school bond issue voted June 4, as a result of adoption of the City Charter providing for formation of the Torrance School District, but previous bonded indebtedness will be adjudicated and only that part of bond funds actually spent on the Torrance schools can be charged to Torrance.

So the County Counsel's office has advised the Torrance Charter committee.

It was revealed in the last days of the election campaign on the City Charter, in August, that since no part of the \$75,000,000 bonds had been sold, Torrance has no liability under that issue.

However, the County Counsel's office also has revealed that the Los Angeles School District can charge to Torrance City Schools only that part of all past bonded indebtedness which was actually spent on the four schools within the city limits of Torrance.

This saving, it was said, will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers.

Torrance polling places were the only ones of the thousands in Los Angeles school districts which rejected the \$75,000,000 bonds, and the decision of the people at that time had considerable effect on the subsequent campaign for adoption of the City Charter.

During this campaign, Los Angeles interests had claimed that Torrance must accept liability and pay its share of bonded school debt according to assessed valuation, and this alone would have meant a cost to Torrance of \$1,500,000 on the \$75,000,000 issue of June 4. Torrance now is paying nearly \$50,000 a year on bonded indebtedness for schools, and it is expected that by the time past payments and present liability are adjusted, this sum will be drastically reduced.

The new City Charter of Torrance adopted by the voters on Aug. 20 by a majority of nearly two to one, is in the hands of Assemblyman Vincent Thomas who, with the assistance of the Legislative Counsel's office in Sacramento, is preparing a resolution of ratification as soon as the California Legislature convenes on January 6.

Assemblyman Thomas conferred Monday with City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, securing necessary resolutions and ordinances pertaining to the City Charter, and in turn is conferring with attorneys from the Legislative Counsel's office relative to drafting the resolution and certifying incident to ratification of the Charter.

Immediate ratification will be sought in order that necessary legal steps may be carried out by the County Superintendent of Schools office to bring about organization of the Torrance School District, as provided by the City Charter, by Feb. 1.

Steps to be taken as soon as the Charter is ratified include fixing the boundaries of the district by the Board of Supervisors, election of the Board of Education and election to decide high school district affiliation. Torrance voters must choose between Redondo Union high school district and Los Angeles high school district for secondary education until the Torrance Unified school district

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## Apathy, Growth Of City Responsible For Increase In Expenditures Here

Apathy of the taxpayer is responsible for the increase in cost of government beyond that which is required by community expansion, according to Logan R. Cotton, auditor of the City of Torrance, who addressed Torrance Lions club Tuesday noon. Cotton also addressed the Rotary club on Thursday evening, and predicted Torrance will be the center of some 200,000 population in the next few years.

The auditor said that "you yourself are to blame" for the increase in local government expense, "because you expect too much from the government and don't turn your hand to save the city any money."

Declaring that the tide of government expenditure is creeping up, he outlined increases in cost of Torrance city government during the past six and seven years, and declared that the people are "getting what they pay for." Expenses for protection of life and property have gone up 40 percent, he said, "but you wouldn't let the city lay off any police or firemen."

"It costs you money," he continued, "to keep the streets clean, trees trimmed and the parks in good condition." "If you don't want parks, tell

## Drastic Motor Vehicle Code Changes Due

Drastic changes in the Motor Vehicle Code of California, to modernize it in keeping with present traffic and police problems, are contemplated for the next session of the California Legislature, according to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, secretary of the Interim Committee on Motor Vehicles. Assemblyman Thomas will go to Sacramento on Oct. 23 for a two-day hearing on proposed changes in some 200 sections of the code.

Among them are those which will provide for permanent license plates, a \$10 flat fee for all automobiles so that the jalopy will pay its just dues for highway wear and tear, and ways and means for keeping the registration certificate in the automobile at all times.

Most of the proposed changes result from police problems created in recent years, and complete revision of the code probably will result from the committee's hearings, Assemblyman Thomas said.

## Oganesoff Faces New Rape Charge Hearing Friday

Remanded over to Superior Court for pleading, following hearing in City Court Friday on charges of criminal attack on Mrs. Georgia L. Eaton of Compton, Ernest Oganesoff must face preliminary hearing here tomorrow on a second, similar charge by another complainant.

Oganesoff, 38, of 2222 W. 182nd st., was held meanwhile in Torrance jail pending posting of \$5,000 bail on the Eaton charge and an additional \$1000 on the second complaint. Mrs. Eaton, a 48-year-old mother, testified in the hearing before City Judge John Shlider that Oganesoff and a boy called "Johnny" offered to drive her in "Johnny's" car from one Compton night spot, which was closing, to another, where she was going with a party of friends. Instead, she declared, they took her to Oganesoff's "shack" and forced her to submit, threatening to kill her if she resisted.

Torrance police are seeking John Elston, 18, of Alhambra, in connection with the case. The second complaint against Oganesoff, filed last Friday, alleges a similar offense against Torrance woman on August 30.

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## Hope For Merger Of Telephone Service Gains

Residents of outlying Torrance districts who have sought to have all Torrance telephone service placed under the jurisdiction of one company, received encouragement this week when it was revealed that a decision on the proposed sale of the Downey district of the Consolidated Telephone Co. to the Associated Telephone Co. is expected to be made by the State Railroad Commission within two weeks.

The Downey telephone district consists of that community, parts of Bellflower, Norwalk, Artesia and Bell Gardens. Central Torrance is under the Southern California Telephone Company's Torrance exchange, southeast Torrance is under the firm's Lomita exchange, and northeast Torrance is under Southern California's Memo exchange.

However, southwest, west and northwest Torrance are under the Associated Telephone Company's Redondo exchange, and many appearances have been made before the City Council seeking the institution of action which would bring about the purchase by the Southern California Telephone Company of the Associated lines in Torrance to facilitate public health, safety and convenience.

That the Railroad Commission will consider such petitions is indicated in the Downey district deal between Consolidated and the Associated company.



LEADERS OF CHEST CAMPAIGN IN TORRANCE MAKE PLANS... Seated, left to right: Albert H. Bartlett, colonel, public employee; Russell Lund, campaign chairman; Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, vice chairman, special gifts; Standing: Frederick Cook, vice chairman, establishments division; George Johnson, colonel, education division; George Johnson, colonel, education division. Three hundred more good citizens are needed to make this campaign a success. Enroll at the Torrance District Welfare Center, 1339 Post Ave.

## Plea Of Social Worker Gets Street Action

Fuebio's 208rd st. probably will be improved before the rains set in, because Miss Agnes Fladung was in the audience of the City Council meeting Tuesday night.

City Engineer G. M. Jain was explaining to the Council upon inquiry from Mayor J. Hugh Sherkey Jr., that the condition of the street is not bad enough to warrant any immediate work, when Miss Fladung, social welfare worker for the Catholic Welfare Bureau, hopped to her feet and after addressing the mayor told Jain that she "begged to differ" with him.

Miss Fladung then proceeded to inform the council that the street is in such bad repair that it not only is an eyesore but it destroys the incentive of the home owners along the street to keep up their own places. She urged that if the alleyways of Torrance can be paved, certainly funds can be found to improve the Pueblo street.

Jain, after discussing the matter with the mayor and Councilman A. L. Jackson, agreed that probably part of the work can be done in the building section, and promised to have estimates of cost for the next council meeting.

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## CITY ADOPTS ORDINANCE FOR CURB METERS; SALES TAX LEVY IS CONTEMPLATED

Parking meters for Torrance moved a definite step toward reality Tuesday night when the City Council adopted for the first reading an ordinance providing for their installation, fees and regulation.

Groping for ways and means of meeting the financial crisis in which Torrance city government finds itself, the council heard read by title but refused to consider at that time a proposed ordinance to set up a city sales tax of one-half on one percent.

Such a sales tax, based on the formula set up by the State Board of Equalization, sales tax division, would yield in excess of \$60,000 to the City of Torrance, it is predicted.

Torrance last year spent \$73,328 more than was produced in revenue, including proceeds from the ad-valorem tax, and is more than \$40,000 away from balancing the budget of 1946-47.

Parking meters are being installed as a revenue producer rather than for their need in traffic and parking regulation, it was admitted, and the merchants parking committee headed by Bob Haggard yesterday declared that they will await the reaction of business men along the street to the council's Tuesday night action before instituting the circulation of referendum petitions calling for the installation of the curbside meters. Those being purchased are of the multiple coin type, permitting fees of from one cent for 12 minutes to five cents for one hour.

Councilman G. V. Powell moved for adoption of the parking meter ordinance, and it was

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Interment will be at Pacific Crest Cemetery.

## Water District Bonds Sold To Bank Of America

Bonds for Improvement of Municipal Water District No. 1, in Southwest Torrance and Welteria, were sold to the Bank of America by the City Council Tuesday night, and the development thereupon reached the construction stage.

The bank offered three percent for \$125,000 of the bonds and three and one-half percent for the remaining \$25,000, at par, plus a bonus of \$281. Only one bid was received.

Taylor and Taylor, contracting water engineers for the City, urged the council to choose between use of steel pipe, double coated and heavily wrapped, available in 1947, rather than waiting until 1948 for cast iron or transit pipe. This suggestion was referred to Water Manager William Stanger.

The engineering firm also asked the council to fix the prevailing wage rate to be paid on the job.

Meanwhile, North Torrance is preparing to vote on Nov. 19 on formation of its water district.

## Council Hears New Protests On License Tax

Protests against increased business license taxes outlined in the proposed new Torrance ordinance were brought to City Council last night by representatives of businesses ranging from the little P. E. Lunchroom to the Pepsi-Cola Co. and the Hotel and Apartment House Owners' Association.

Lonely exceptions to the rule of dissatisfaction were expressed by Ed Saul, local hog farm operator, who said the fee of \$50 to be levied on his business was "o. k. with me—I'm no hog," and F. J. Carpenter, representative of National Supply Co.

A public hearing on the proposed municipal retail sales tax of one-half of one percent was also held by the City Council last evening.

Mayor Sherkey stated that the proposed municipal sales tax would parallel the existing State sales tax in its provisions and scope. Numerous members of the audience remonstrated with the ordinance at the meeting last week it was indicated that if a sales tax were adopted, that an increase in the business license ordinance would be unnecessary.

Sam Levy, department store operator, stated he was opposed to the sales tax, as it was not the solution to the problem. He advocated a conference between city officials and businessmen in an effort to reduce municipal expenses and halt all tax increases.

"We've got to stop this ordinance bubble is going to break," warned Levy. Before the hearing adjourned the members of the Council finance committee agreed to meet Friday evening at 7 p. m. with representatives of the retail merchants and industries.

Blaine Walker, Chamber of Commerce secretary, stated that a check among nearby cities of comparable size with Torrance revealed that the per capita tax in Torrance was \$35 per year, as contrasted with \$20 to \$25 in other municipalities.

Carpenter expressed his gratitude when Mayor J. Hugh Sherkey, Jr., said the previously proposed "head tax" would be eliminated. "Carpenter said he probably will be no objection to a flat \$24 yearly rate per industry."

Luther Mumford, temporary chairman of the newly-formed Hotel and Apartment House Owners' Association called for reading at the meeting of a letter his group had sent the Council protesting raising of the license fee on such structures from \$5 to \$24 a year on all buildings of five or more apartments. He pointed to OPA restrictions and rising construction costs as making operation hazardous even without an increase.

One of the strongest objections of the evening was raised

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## Lucky Girl, 4 1/2, Struck By Auto, Escapes Injury

Little Lynn Hyde was lucky yesterday evening. She was struck by a car.

Not that the 4 1/2-year-old girl, nor her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don H. Hyde, enjoyed the accident, which occurred, police reports say, when she darted between two parked cars in front of her home at 1637 El Prado st. and into the path of a car.

But the mishap, in which she was not seriously injured, will make her much more careful in the future.

Fortunately Robert C. Blean, of the Park Hotel, Torrance, was going slowly enough that his car was nearly stopped when he hit her. Lynn was taken home after treatment at the Torrance Memorial Hospital for a bump on the head.

HOME GUTTED  
Fire at midnight last night gutted the home of Mr. and Mrs. Basil E. Brady at 1820 Plaza del Amo. Of undetermined origin, the blaze started while Brady was sleeping in the house. Mrs. Brady and their three children were away.

## THREE-POINT PLAN TO END CITY'S FINANCIAL ENIGMA GIVEN COUNCIL BY CHAMBER

A three-point plan to pay off the current \$73,328 deficit in the City of Torrance treasury and at the same time assure future operations of the municipality on a balanced budget basis, was presented to members of the City Council Tuesday evening by a committee from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Appearing for the Chamber board at an informal session of the council held prior to the general session Tuesday evening were Charles T. Rippey, former city attorney, and city judge; Reed H. Parkin, chamber president, and Crover C. Whyte, publisher of The Herald. All are Chamber directors.

The plan as outlined by Rippey, chairman of the group, is as follows:

1. Eliminate the present objectionable features of the proposed business license ordinance by placing most establishments on a flat annual fee basis, perhaps at \$24 per year instead of the current \$12 annual fee.

2. Adopt a city sales tax of one-half of one percent, paralleling the present State sales tax provisions, but to have the City sales tax effective for only one year, for the expressed purpose of liquidating the present deficit.

3. Submit an ordinance to the electorate, if possible at the November 5 election, creating the office of City Manager, with adequate protection from political pressure groups in order that the manager can do an efficient job, and in this way operate the city affairs within the limits of its revenues and thus forestall a repetition of the present deficit in future years.

In outlining the Chamber plan to the council members, Chairman Rippey stressed the importance of the plan.

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## Model Car Track Brings Protest From Neighbors

Torrance model race car track at Plaza del Amo and Border avenue is a nuisance which disturbs day sleepers and the ill, some 50 residents of the area told the City Council in written and oral protests Tuesday night.

As a result, the council has asked A. W. Finch, who heads the Torrance Model Race Car club which operates the track on city property as a part of the Torrance Recreation department program, to confer with the City Council regarding complaints.

Mrs. Inez Brady and Basil E. Brady appeared in person in support of the protesting petition signed by about 50 residents, and said that one complaining police case which requires extreme quiet is being moved into one home on Plaza del Amo, and urged consideration of the petition. They said that the tiny model cars are operated almost daily on the track.

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## Merchants Launch Drive To Place Christmas Decorations On Streets

Whether or not Torrance streets will be decorated over the Christmas holidays shopping season is up to the merchants themselves, under a plan adopted by the Retail Merchants Christmas Decorating committee of the Chamber of Commerce Monday morning.

Headed by John T. McCrary Jr., assistant manager of the J. C. Penney Co., Torrance store, the group decided on the following plan:

That the retail merchants of Sartori ave. collectively subscribe a sufficient amount of money for the proper decorating of this street, in a manner and style to be determined by the committee.

That the merchants of El Prado, Marcelina and Cravens avenues shall have their streets decorated in a manner commensurate with the amount of money subscribed in their zone.

That the committee will request the cooperation of the City of Torrance in placing colored electric light stringers throughout zones 1 and 2, wherever feasible.

The committee is inviting the cooperation of any other retail areas not above specified to participate in this Christmas street decorating plan. It was reported by members

Torrance Weather Record		
Official U. S. Weather Bureau		
TEMPERATURE		
Oct.	Maxi	Mini
1	74	53
2	70	50
3	72	48
4	71	47
5	71	47
6	71	47
7	71	47
8	74	49
PRECIPITATION		
	Total (Year)	
	5.69	